

U. S. S E N A T E



Republican Policy Committee

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August 1, 1996

A Tale of Two Congresses

Reform-Minded 104th Versus Spendthrift 103d: The Difference One Election Can Make

103d Congress - the Tax & Spend Crowd

Higher Taxes - Passed the largest tax increase in American history (\$275 billion)

Higher Spending - Increased domestic spending \$300 billion under President Clinton's 1993 economic plan

Wasteful Spending - House passed President Clinton's \$16.3 billion pork-barrel "stimulus" spending bill which Senator Dole and others in the Minority Party stopped in the Senate

Red-Ink Budgets - Neither the President nor Congress proposed a balanced budget

Defending the Failed Welfare System - Despite campaign slogan to "end welfare as we know it," President's party failed to consider welfare reform — which may have been a good thing since the President's bill proposed to spend more money without overhauling the system

104th Congress - A Reformers' Caucus

Lower Taxes - Passed a \$245 billion tax cut to aid families (including a \$500-per-child tax credit) and to create jobs, but President Clinton vetoed it

Lower Spending - Cut FY95 spending \$9.3 billion and FY96 spending \$23 billion; eliminated 270 wasteful programs; moved entire government to a "balanced budget mode" of thinking

Fiscal Responsibility - Enacted the line-item veto bill, and failed by *one vote* to approve the balanced budget constitutional amendment when six Senators from the President's party switched their votes and defeated the proposed amendment

Balanced Budgets - Passed the Balanced Budget Act — the first balanced budget since 1969 — which the President vetoed

Reforming Welfare as We Know It - Passed real welfare reform twice — once as the Personal Responsibility Act and then as part of the Balanced Budget Act — but President Clinton vetoed both; today, the 104th Congress is on the verge of passing another reform bill

Crime: Rhetoric Over Reality - Spent billions on ineffective social welfare programs; cut funding for the Drug Czar's office by more than 90 percent in 1993; rejected ending unlimited death row appeals (habeas corpus reforms) that allow violent criminals to escape justice

Government-Run Health Care - Tried and failed to win approval for Clinton's government-run health care bill that would have rationed health care, limited consumer choices, increased taxes (that may have cost 3.8 million jobs), created more than 100 new federal bureaucracies, and mandated universal abortion coverage

Creating New Federal Bureaucracies - Federalized local education with GOALS 2000; created costly new AmeriCorps bureaucracy; expanded Education Department bureaucracy with direct loan program

Business As Usual in Congress - Enacted no major congressional reforms; blocked efforts of specially-created joint committee designed to reform Congress.

Hurting Senior Citizens - Imposed higher taxes on Social Security benefits (beginning with those earning \$34,000 per year); blocked efforts to raise Social Security earnings limit; jeopardized health care for seniors by proposing (as part of "ClintonCare") to limit health spending to zero real growth

Getting Tough on Violent Criminals - Limited criminals' endless death row appeals; passed criminal alien deportation reforms; passed victim restitution; passed truth-in-sentencing grants; strengthened anti-terrorism statutes; strengthened laws on sexual crimes against children

Comprehensive Private Health Care Reform - Passed major reforms to increase health care portability, availability, and affordability without limiting choices or rationing care while offering limited medical savings accounts, ending pre-existing conditions exclusions, and combating waste and fraud; after months of Democratic delay, Congress today is on the verge of sending the bill to the President

Downsizing Federal Bureaucracies - Privatized 4 major agencies, reduced number of bureaucrats at 29 of 39 major agencies, and cut funding for GOALS 2000, AmeriCorps, Legal Services Corporation, and bilingual education

Ending Business As Usual in Congress - Passed Congressional Accountability Act, lobbying reform act, and gift ban rules; cut congressional staff by one-third and cut congressional spending

Helping Senior Citizens - Enacted increase in Social Security earnings test (will reach \$30,000); strengthened Medicare to keep the program from going bankrupt in year 2002, but President Clinton vetoed; President also vetoed (as part of Balanced Budget Act) tax incentives to encourage long-term care coverage and \$1,000 eldercare tax deduction

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[This is an edited version of a paper by the House Republican Conference (June 26, 1996).]